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ASHEVILLE, N.C.

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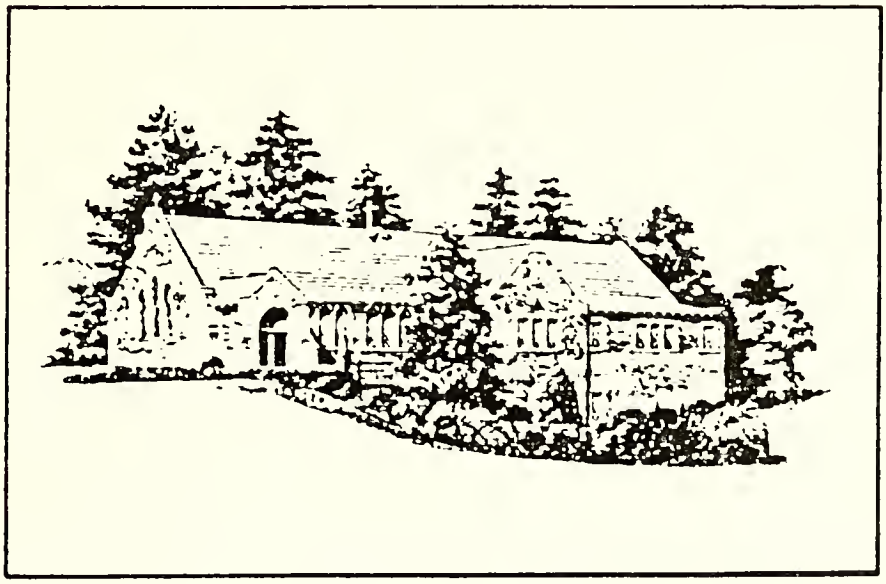

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SAINT MARY'S PARISH PROFILE

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I.

HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The beginning of St. Mary's, Asheville, is a unique story; one quite distinctive from those of other Churches. It is the only parish that has been started within the geographical limits of another parish. Mission Churches have been started in this manner, under the guidance and continued care of the parish, however, St. Mary's has always been a parish.

St. Mary's had its beginning when certain members of Trinity Church, Asheville, decided to form a parish in the growing Grove Park section of Asheville. To do so they needed to obtain the consent of the bishop of the diocese and the vestry of Trinity. This was given, and the area of the new parish was designated as the section of the city north of Hillside Street and east of Merrimon Avenue. On June 4, 1914 an organizational meeting was held at the home of Annie C. Payne, and a vestry elected. The vestry called Rev. Charles Mercer Hall to be their rector and he accepted. He had been supplying the previous Lent at Trinity Church, Asheville, in an interim when the parish was without a rector, and so was known by those who started St. Mary's.

Father Hall, as he was known, and the St. Mary's Vestry acted promptly and services were held in a Club House on the grounds of the Manor Hotel, Charlotte Street. The Sunday schedule was 8:00, 10:30, 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A lot was purchased at the corner of Charlotte Street and Macon Avenue for $5500, and ground was soon broken for the Church, or more correctly for the chapel, as it was the intention to build a larger structure for the Church in the future. The Corner Stone was laid by Father Hall on October 20, 1914. The architect of the Church was Richard Sharp Smith of Asheville. The Church was completed

in time for occupancy on Christmas Day, 1914, and Bishop Horner officiated at the first service. The value of the building was given at $10,000.

A further distinction in the founding of St. Mary's, as quoted from the original by-laws: "The parish is organized for the maintenance and defense of Catholic principles." It was Father Hall's teaching of those principles, while supplying at Trinity, that influenced the founding of St. Mary's and those who have followed the progress of the parish know how well they have been adhered to.

The diocesan journal of 1916, which gives the statistics of the first complete calendar year of St. Mary's life reports 45 families, 100 baptized persons, 90 communicants, 18 confirmands, 35 in Sunday School, 429 Holy Communion services, and 243 other public services. The report speaks for itself.

Father Hall accepted a call to a Bridgeport, Connecticut Church in 1925. This loss was felt not only by St. Mary's but by the entire community.

The Rectors of St. Mary's following Father Hall have each in their own way and by their own individual talent contributed to a distinctively beautiful and unique church. In order of succession, they were:

Father Schnorrenberg, who was largely responsible for the Rood Screen of carved wood, and many of the other art works now found in the church.

Father Farnam, who was a very dedicated Priest and saw St. Mary's through great economic strife during the depression.

Father Webb, who is probably best remembered for his influence on the music at St. Mary's and the Medieval Mystery Plays which became so well loved by the community.

Father Veal, who came to St. Mary's from Haiti, was a student of the Scriptures, Church Doctrine and history.

During Father Chaplin's time at St. Mary's, a great deal was accomplished concerning the church property. A large addition was completed that includes the present crypt. The former Rectory became the Parish House and the landscaping of the grounds by Doan Ogden was accomplished to the delight of the parishioners in addition to his dedicated ministry.

St. Mary's has been very fortunate, from its inception to the present, to have been blessed with outstanding leadership. Each priest, in his own way, strengthened the spiritual life of St. Mary's parishioners and all those in the community with whom they came in contact.

II.

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

The focal point of Western North Carolina's cultural activities lies in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains with a comfortable mountain climate and spectacular scenery. In 1982, this beautiful mountain setting was listed by Rand-McNally as one of the ten best small metro areas in which to live in the United States. The study noted such attributes as climate, housing, health care, recreation, and the arts. Asheville is also ranked as the nation's most desirable retirement community.

III.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Holy Communion	8:00 a.m.
Nursery and Church School (all ages)	9.30 a.m.
Sung Mass and Sermon	10:30 a.m.
Sung Evensong and Benediction	
First Sunday	5.00 p.m.

Daily Masses

Wednesday (Healing and Laying on of Hands)	10:30 a.m.
Friday (Special Devotions)	5:15 p.m.

Confessions by Appointment

"Now I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God, and to meditate on it, that thus my heart might be comforted, encouraged, warned, reproved, instructed; and thus, by means of the Word of God, whilst meditating on it, my heart might be brought into experimental communion with the Lord."

IV.

SPECIAL SERVICES

St. Mary's is probably somewhat unique in the diocese regarding its special devotional services. Stations of the Cross are observed during the Lenten and Advent seasons. Several times after Easter, on both Sundays and weekdays, a special service written especially for St. Mary's -- Stations of the Resurrection -- are held at the discretion of the priest or worship committee. The Wednesday Mass incorporates a special healing service and the first Sunday of every month has a sung Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrement. At appropriate times, there is public recitation of the Holy Rosary by the Society of St. Mary. Traditional Holy Week services follow the schedule of the Anglican Missal and include: Maunday Thursday sung Mass and watch at the Altar of Repose until 12 midnight; three hours of meditation on Good Friday, to include meditation and Stations of the Cross; and Holy Saturday Mass. The Patronal Festival Feast of the Purification is held on the Sunday nearest to February 2. Holy days are observed according to the Calendar.

V.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian education at Saint Mary's involves both young parishioners and adults. Through church school, our youth are taught the fundamentals of the Bible, the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, and the use of the church missal. We use the Teal Curriculum, which stresses the heritage of the Anglican Catholic Church. Our priest himself teaches the Confirmation classes. Adult education classes are held every Sunday by qualified lay leaders and priests from outside the parish. These adult classes are usually conducted around a single topic or theme.

VI.

THE VESTRY

St. Mary's Vestry consists of nine members, three of whom are elected each January for a period of three years. To be eligible as a Vestryman, one must be a communicant of at least 16 years old, and contributed to the support of the Church for at least six months. A Vestryman may not stand for reelection until he has been out of office for at least one year. However, he is eligible to fill an unexpired term. Upon nomination of the Rector, the Vestry elects two of its members as Senior Warden and Junior Warden. The Vestry also elects the Secretary and Treasurer who may or may not be members of the Vestry. The Rector, if present, presides at Parish meetings. In his absence, the order of priority for the presiding officer is the (1) Senior Warden, and (2) the Junior Warden. If none of the foregoing officers are present, the Parish meeting may elect one of its members to preside.

VII.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Church Women at St. Mary's consists of an active membership of twenty-two. The members work as a group to support Church activities, to raise funds, and to provide care for the sick and bereaved. Meetings are held monthly, and are scheduled at noon so as to encourage participation both by women who work outside the home as well as those who work inside the home. ECW's most noteworthy fundraiser is the annual Sidewalk Sale, which is a Church-wide event. The sale consistently nets between $4000 and $5000. Its proceeds are used to augment the Church budget and provide for special projects, as well as completely cover the ECW budget and ECW special projects. Most recently, ECW's project has been the repair of the Rectory.

VIII.

ALTAR GUILD

The Shrine of Saint Mary's (Episcopal) Altar Guild exemplifies a warm community of people who share together their spiritual lives and worship in individual and corporate ways. Those involved in this closer relationship around the Altar of Jesus Christ are committed to a life which is enhanced by prayers, clarified by meditation and sustained in devotion. The Altar Guild preserves as well as reveres its established functions, tithing time and energy, in support of the worship of Jesus Christ through sacramental liturgy and traditional expressions of Faith, including veneration and adoration. Thus the Altar Guild supports this Altar of sacred character and beauty while promoting vigorous life, spiritual thought, and Christian acts by all who participate in worship with them.

Holy Spirit, shew me my
sins;
Shew me the Blessed Lamb
of God.
Holy Spirit, give me peace;
Peace with God and peace with man.
Holy Spirit, stir my will;
Give me the gift of holy fear.
Holy Spirit, give me faith;
Faith in God and faith in the Faith.
Holy Spirit, give me hope;
Make me think of heaven and hell.
Holy Spirit, give me love;
Love for Jesus and love for souls.
Teach me and lead me where thou
wilt;
Make me know the love of God.

IX.

ORGAN AND CHOIR MUSIC AT ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's is Anglo-Catholic and that fact controls the type of music used each Sunday morning at the 10:30 Mass which is a High or Sung Mass. There are usually four Hymns used from the 1940 Hymnal. The type of Hymns used depends on the time of the Liturgical year.

The Introit, Gradual, Sequence, Alleluias, Offetory and Communion are sung from the English Gradual Part II which contains the Propers for the Liturgical year.

The Kyrie eleison, Gloria in excelsis, Credo, Sanctus and Benedictus, Pater Noster and Agnus Dei are all done from several Plainchant Festival Services edited by Charles Winfred Douglas for the Holy Eucharist. There are also some similar services in the back of the 1940 Hymnal.

Before the Offertory or during Communion suitable Anthems could be used.

The Pipe Organ and Choir are in the Gallery at the back of the Nave. The Pipe Organ is a one manual, with Pedals but with no Expression Pedal. It has five stops. The Choir varies in number but in order to have the type of music suitable it is necessary to have at least one Cantor. The Priest usually Chants part of the Service.

X.

COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES

The facilities at St. Mary's Church have hosted many community endeavors. From the birthplace of the Asheville Symphony, to foreign exchange students to Parish Meetings, the Crypt has seen a variety of people and events. These further include birthday and Epiphany parties for the young, choir rehearsals and the Womens' meetings, the place also serves as the organizational center for the Church. The space has been used by Girl Scouts, Weight Watchers, and Alcoholic Anonymous, plus a myriad of other local groups. Truly, these well-equipped rooms are given in the Christian sense, to be shared by everyone.

XI.

PARISH HOUSE

The Parish House was built in the 1920's of brick construction and was used as a rectory until 1970. At that time it was converted to a parish house for use as a Sunday School, but no major changes in construction have occurred -- only normal maintenance. The first floor consists of a living room, dining room, kitchen, small breakfast room, small den with bookshelves, small music/sitting room, and half-bath. The upstairs has a master bedroom with connecting bath, two additional bedrooms with connecting bath, two walk-in closets and two conventional closets. A new roof and oil furnace were installed 15 years ago. The kitchen is complete with a new stove, and a refrigerator that is 10-years old. There is a large pantry adjacent to the kitchen. There is a large uncovered back porch with a smaller covered, side porch. The half-basement is dry, has a concrete floor, half-bath, and a hot and cold sink. The back yard is spacious and well-landscaped. A complete renovation of the parish house is currently underway to put it in first-class condition for its continued use as a parish house or for its conversion to a rectory.

XII.

DEVOTIONAL SOCIETIES

.1 The Society of Mary

The Society of Mary is a devotional society of Catholics within the Episcopal Church of America, tracing its history in the Communion to the 1880s.

The Society is dedicated to the glory of God and of the Holy Incarnation under the invocation of Our Lady, help of Christians.

The ward at St. Mary's Church, Asheville, is the Salve Regina and meets the first Sunday of each month for devotions along with the Confraternity and includes the Rosary, Evensong and Benediction, followed by a covered-dish supper.

.2 The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament

The Confraternity was founded in England in 1862 and is now wide-spread in the Anglican Communion. The American branch dates from 1867. The Ward (as chapters are called) of St. Mary's Parish was founded on Corpus Christi, June 7, 1917. It is one of the oldest wards in the American Church in continuous devotions to the Blessed Sacrament. There are yearly dues of $2.00 and one receives a daily devotional booklet for specific prayers to be said by all the members each day of the year. Present membership is twenty-five lay members and two clergy. Purpose is to promote the 5:00 p.m. devotions each first Sunday of the month, the Holy Week Services, especially Maundy Thursday and the Watch. The annual meeting is near the date of the Corpus Christi date on the calendar.

XIII.

MEMBERSHIP AT ST. MARY'S PARISH

Membership: 246

Age Category:

- One to twenty-five years: 61
- Twenty-five to fifty years: 74
- Over fifty years: 111
- Confirmed Members: 225

Attendance at Mass:

- Sunday, 8 a.m.: 25 to 30
- Sunday, 10:30 a.m.: 65 to 75
- Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.: 10 to 12
- Friday, 5:15 p.m.: 8 to 10

The major growth at present occurs in the twenty-five to forty age category.

There is a slower rate of growth in the ten to twenty age category.

SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Asheville, NC

	1982	1981
Receipts		
Pledged Donations	$38,300	$34,000
Non-Pledged Donations	9,110	5,945
Women of the Church	2,000	1,000
Leavitt Fund Contribution	13,000	13,000
Investment & Interest	1,200	1,200
Rental Income	1,200	1,200
Other Income	200	200
Total Receipts	$65,010	$56,345
Disbursements		
Personnel:		
Rector - Stipend	$13,760	$12,800
Auto	2,730	2,600
Housing	3,600	3,600
Retirement	4,515	4,200
Medical Ins.	1,400	1,400
FICA Tax	700	650
	$26,705	$25,250
Organist	2,400	2,200
Choir Director	2,100	2,000
Custodian	3,660	3,660
Caretaker	2,500	-----
Relief Priest	220	220
Father Douglas (Auto Allowance)	1,260	1,200
Office Secretary	1,470	1,400
	$13,610	$10,680
Operations:		
Altar, Church & Choir Supplies	1,200	1,200
Church School & Parish Activities	400	550
Office Supplies, Printing & Postage	660	600
Telephone	550	500
Insurance	1,065	1,065
Advertising	360	150
Maintenance Supplies	630	600
Laundry	200	350
Maintenance & Improvements	3,630	3,300
Electricity	1,100	1,000
Water & Sewer	550	500
Fuel & Oil	7,500	4,200
Total Operations	$17,845	$14,215
Outside Parish:		
Rector's Discretionary Fund	$ 1,200	$ 1,100
Diocese Pledge	4,000	3,800
Special Offering - Bishop	150	100
Total Outside Parish	$ 5,350	$ 5,000
Contingencies	$ 1,500	$ 1,200
Total Disbursements	$65,010	$56,345
EXCESS RECEIPTS (DISBURSEMENTS)	$ -0-	$ -0-

WHEREAS THE BY-LAWS OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH, ASHEVILLE, N.C. as set forth in the Minute Book of St. Mary's Parish, and adopted under date of SEPTEMBER 3, 1914, are in many respects contrary to the Canons of the Diocese, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the same are hereby annulled, and lieu thereof are substituted the following:

BY-LAWS OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH, ASHEVILLE, N.C.

ARTICLE I
The Rector

Since this Parish was organized for the maintenance and defence of Catholic Principles, the name of no Priest shall be considered by the Vestry, in the election of a Rector, unless he is known to be a Catholic in principle and in practice and is convinced of the necessity of maintaining perpetual reservation of the Blessed Sacrament.

ARTICLE II
WARDENS AND VESTRY

A. 1. The Senior Warden shall be nominated by the Rector to the Vestry.
2. The Junior Warden shall be nominated by the Rector to the Vestry.
3. In the absence of the Rector, both Wardens shall be nominated to the Vestry by the Parish at the Annual Parish Meeting.

B. There shall be elected by the Vestry at its first meeting after the Annual Parish Meeting, in addition to the Wardens, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

C. A majority of those present shall elect as a Vestry or Parish Meeting.

ARTICLE III

A. 1. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to take charge of the weekly offerings and pledges and as soon as possible deposit them in a Bank designated by the Vestry.
2. The Treasurer shall, as soon after the Sunday Next Before Advent as possible, supply the Rector for distribution at his discretion, a printed notice to each pledged member notifying him or her of the amount of his or her pledge, and at the expiration of each quarter year thereafter, he shall supply to the Rector, for distribution at his discretion, a printed form to each pledged member showing the standing of his or her account to date.
3. The Treasurer shall submit, in addition to his monthly report, a quarterly report in writing to the Vestry, and shall have his annual report, after approval by the Vestry, audited in accordance with the provision of the Canon on Business Methods.
4. The Secretary shall record the minutes in longhand in a special book provided for that purpose.

ARTICLE IV
Meetings

A. 1. The Vestry shall meet regularly every month in the year, except as otherwise agreed.
2. There shall be a Special Meeting of the Vestry, for purposes of organization, immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting.

B. A majority of the entire vestry shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V
Order of Business

1. Prayer
2. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of Committees
5. Unfinished business
6. Communications
7. New Business
8. Elections

ARTICLE VI
Committees

A. The following Standing Committees of not less than three members shall be appointed annually by the Rector.

1. Committee on Finance, of which the Treasurer shall be a member ex-officio.
2. Committee on Fabric and Maintainance.

In the Annual Parish Meeting immediately before the election of the Vestry, the Parish shall by vote, decide on the number of the vestry for the coming year. Nominations for Vestrymen shall be made from the floor one at a time and the name of each nominee shall be displayed in view of the meeting. A ballot shall then be taken.

Up to the number set, the candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be declared elected whether or not anyone receives a majority of the votes cast.

ARTICLE VII

To alter, add to, or amend these By-Laws or any portion of them, a resolution must first be presented in writing at a regular meeting of the Vestry or at a Parish Meeting. This resolution must lie over for action for two months, when it may be adopted either at a regular meeting of the Vestry by a majority vote of all members of the Vestry or a legal Parish Meeting by a majority vote of the Qualified voters present.

AMENDMENT OF MAY 7, 1928 - Ratified July 1, 1929

I move that the present By-Law covering the election of Wardens be stricken out and the following substituted: "The Vestry shall, upon nomination of the Rector, elect two of its members, one as Senior Warden, and the other as Junior Warden".

AMENDMENT OF JUNE 4, 1928 - Ratified August 6, 1928

Article III. Section A. 2. in the phrase "expiration of each quarter year thereafter" insert the word "calendar" before the word "quarter".

Insert a section "a-4" in Article III to read as follows:

The Treasurer shall keep his books on the calendar year and the envelopes shall cover the period from January 1st to December 31st and from January 1st until the election of the Vestry no checks shall be drawn by the Treasurer may be authorized to pay other specific bills only upon the unanimous vote of the Vestry present at any meeting."

XVI.

RESULTS OF ST. MARY'S PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

A survey questionnaire was prepared by the Search Committee to assess the congregation's attitudes and desires concerning:

1. The attributes that were most important to them concerning Father Paul Chaplin's successor, and,

2. The areas of worship that were most important to them at St. Mary's.

The questionnaires were totaled for each category and multiplied by the weight for each item. The grand total of the products was then divided by the number of returns to ascertain the average weight. For example, a typical question may have been answered in the following manner:

	Weight	Questionnaire Returns	Weight Times Returns
Very Important	5	40	200
Important	4	30	120
Slightly Important	3	15	45
Slightly Unimportant	2	15	30
Unimportant	1	10	10
		110	405

405 divided by 110 = 3.68 (average weight)

A perfect weighted average would have been 5. Using this method, each question was ranked in its relative importance to every other question in the group. For example, the first question asked, "How important is it to you that Father Chaplin's successor posses the following attributes?" The attribute most important to St. Mary's parishioners was, "Minister of The Sacraments." It received a weighted average of 4.50 (the

highest in that particular group of 20 questions) and, therefore, was ranked number one in importance. Likewise, the attribute most unimportant to St. Mary's parishioners was, "Social Ministry Leader." It received a weighted average of 2.92 (the lowest in that particular group of 20 questions) and, therefore, was ranked number 20 in importance.

Following is the complete list of questions the weighted average for each question, and its relative importance in that particular group of questions.

	Weighted Average	Rank
MINISTER OF THE SACRAMENTS: Ability to help persons relate to God through the Sacraments.	4.50	1
WORSHIP LEADER: Ability to plan and conduct a Eucharistically-centered worship.	4.49	2
VISITOR-CRISIS: Willingness to visit people in the midst of crisis; e.g. death, sickness, birth, trauma, success, or other significant points in individual lives.	4.43	3
THEOLOGIAN: Ability to communicate a comprehensive understanding of the teachings of the Church.	4.37	4
COUNSELOR: Ability to counsel persons facing problems or decisions.	4.33	5
PREACHER: Ability to preach the Gospel with clarity and force, to make it meaningful in people's lives.	4.31	6
VISITOR-SHUT-INS: Willingness to provide a Sacramental ministry to shut-ins on a regular basis.	4.27	7

RESULTS OF ST. MARY'S PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

Continued

	Weighted Average	Rank
EVANGELISM LEADER: Ability to communicate the teachings of the Church to inquirers and newcomers.	4.23	8
TEACHER-CHILDREN: Ability and willingness to help organize and participate in an effective church school program.	4.19	9
DELEGATOR: Ability to encourage leadership within the congregation through responsible delegation of authority.	4.01	10
ADMINISTRATIVE LEADER: Ability to manage the affairs of the congregational organization.	3.99	11
YOUTH WORKER-TEACHER: Ability to teach and work with teenage youth within the realm of their own interests.	3.95	12
PARISH ORGANIZATIONS: Willingness to promote and support parish organizations	3.93	13
TEACHER-ADULTS: Ability to teach adults and lead discussion groups.	3.88	14
CHURCH MUSIC: Ability to encourage participation in worship through church music	3.81	15
STEWARDSHIP LEADER: Ability to lead in the development and use of congregational resources; e.g. money, time, and talents.	3.80	16
VISITOR-HOMES: Ability and willingness to visit church members and prospective members in their homes.	3.57	17
COMMUNITY LEADER: Willingness to participate in community groups to meet stated needs in such as drug problems, fair housing, and school issues.	3.02	18

RESULTS OF ST. MARY'S PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

Continued

	Weighted Average	Rank
INTER-CHURCH COOPERATION: Willingness to participate in programs sponsored inter-denominationally or jointly by a number of churches.	2.94	19
SOCIAL MINISTRY LEADER: Ability to enable persons within the congregation to become aware and involved in social issues.	2.92	20

Question 2. The areas of worship that were most important to them at St. Mary's.

ALL SACRAMENTS	4.53	1
HIGH MASS	4.52	2
RESERVATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	4.42	3
THE 1928 PRAYER BOOK	4.38	4
BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	4.26	5
A BEAUTIFUL CEREMONY	4.24	6
STATIONS OF THE CROSS	4.10	7
EVERYTHING AS IT IS	4.01	8
BEAUTIFUL CHURCH MUSIC	3.93	9
THE HYMNAL IN ITS PRESENT FORM	3.77	10
MORNING PRAYER	3.18	11
EVENING PRAYER	3.06	12
RITE I	2.93	13
RITE II	2.11	14

XVII.

OBJECTIVES OF ST. MARY'S PARISH

In the recent survey of the parishioners and vestry of St. Mary's, some objectives of the parish were determined. The immediate objective is to find a suitable successor to our present Priest. An important part of making this selection will come from resumes and interviews of Priests interested in coming to St. Mary's. At present, it is evident that the majority of parishioners want the central worship to remain as is, that is, so-called High Mass using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and the Anglican Missal. Along with this, the following were strongly desired: Keep and use all Sacraments of the Church, Holy Days of Obligation, and the use of all liturgies including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross and the Holy Week Liturgy.

A longer range objective is to stimulate and encourage Church School growth and to increase spiritual growth throughout the parish. Another point made was to encourage sacrificial giving through a program of stewardship.

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